



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

July 1, 1998

**H.R. 1728**  
**National Park System New Area Studies Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 17, 1998*

**SUMMARY**

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the federal government would spend an additional \$2 million annually under H.R. 1728 to study new areas for potential inclusion in the National Park System. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 1728 would establish a statutory process for reviewing new areas as potential additions to the National Park System. The changes made by the bill to laws governing the National Park Service (NPS) would codify practices already adopted by the agency for conducting such reviews. Under these procedures, the NPS would include within its annual budget request a list of areas that the agency recommends for study as possible new park units. Once the NPS receives authority for a study, it would have three years to complete a final report on the area. H.R. 1728 would authorize appropriations of \$2 million annually for carrying out the studies under the new procedures (in addition to an existing authorization of appropriations for conducting new area studies of \$1 million a year).

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Based on information provided by the NPS and assuming appropriation of all amounts authorized for new area studies, CBO estimates that the NPS would spend \$3 million annually to carry out the procedures mandated by H.R. 1728—\$2 million more per year than under current law. Total additional spending over the 1999-2003 period would be \$10 million. The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1728 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

---

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
--	------	------	------	------	------	------

---

**SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION**

Spending Under Current Law						
Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	1	1	1	1	1	1
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	1
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	2	2	2	2	2
Estimated Outlays	0	2	2	2	2	2
Spending Under H.R. 1728						
Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	1	3	3	3	3	3
Estimated Outlays	1	3	3	3	3	3

---

a. The 1998 level is the amount appropriated for that year. The levels shown in each of the outyears are the amounts authorized under current law.

---

**BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For the purpose of this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 1728 will be enacted before the beginning of fiscal year 1999 and that all amounts authorized (by both the bill and existing law) for new area studies would be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for this activity.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 1728 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:** Deborah Reis

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Paul N. Van de Water  
Assistant Director for Budget Analysis